

## **Trends in radioactive iodine treatment after total thyroidectomy in Italy, 2001-2018**

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### Abstract

#### Objective

A decrease in the use of radioactive iodine (RAI) treatment for thyroid cancer has been described in the last decade in the US following subsequent updates of the American Thyroid Association guidelines. By contrast, population-based data from European countries are lacking. The study aims to assess the frequency and long-term trends in the use of RAI in Italy.

#### Methods

From the Italian national hospital discharge database, the proportion of RAI treatment after total thyroidectomy with thyroid cancer diagnosis has been assessed by sex and age class during 2001-2018.

#### Results

Throughout the whole study period, RAI was performed after 58% of 149,419 total thyroidectomies. The use of RAI was higher for men and younger patients; it peaked in 2007 (64% in women and 68% in men) and declined thereafter (2018: 46% in women and 53% in men), with a similar pattern observed across all ages and areas.

#### Conclusion

National data show that in Italy trends in RAI treatment paralleled those observed in the US. Further monitoring of the use of RAI is warranted in Italy, as elsewhere, to assess the impact of international guidelines on real-life clinical management of thyroid cancer.

Keywords: Italy; radioactive iodine (RAI); thyroid surgery; thyroidectomies; time trends.

### **FULL TEXT**

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37256604/>